

From: Ned Ulbricht
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:07am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

This public comment is solicited under the Tunney Act regarding the proposed Microsoft / US DoJ anti-trust settlement.

My understanding of that act is that the US DoJ, as an arm of the federal government, is automatically presumed to be acting in the "public interest" unless the settlement is reached under the pall of bribery, corruption, or undue political influence.

Here is a list assembled from FEC records of some of Microsoft's more recent "donations":

10/17/2001 \$25,000 RNC/Repub National State Elections Cmte
09/27/2001 \$10,000 RNC/Repub National State Elections Cmte
09/26/2001 \$20,179 NRSC/Building Fund
08/21/2001 \$50,000 RNC/Repub National State Elections Cmte
06/27/2001 \$10,000 DNC/Non-Federal Corporate
06/25/2001 \$5,000 NRCC/Non-Federal Account
06/25/2001 \$5,000 NRCC/Non-Federal Account
06/18/2001 \$10,000 DCCC/Non-Federal Account 1
06/08/2001 \$50,000 DSCC/Non-Federal Corporate
06/04/2001 \$25,000 NRSC/Non-Federal
06/04/2001 \$25,000 NRSC/Non-Federal
05/23/2001 \$40,000 2001 President's Dinner/Non-Fed Trust

Taking that last item for example, nowhere else in the world would a company's "donation" of \$40,000 for "dinner" to the chief executive of an administration suing that company for a violation of the nation's laws be seen as anything other than an act of cheap bribery.

This settlement is most emphatically not in the "public interest."

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